

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

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1. The SED is in need of qualified cadres as a result of the recent purging of a number of subordinate officials and the increase in posts to be filled. The administrative reform created new posts in the Kreis and Bezirk councils and in the corresponding party units, for which no suitable personnel was available. Half of the responsible officials at the Bezirk level and 70% of those on the Kreis level have had no experience in work of this nature, and many have never attended any party school.
2. The frequent changes of personnel have led to a lack of stability. However, the local cadres are offering a passive resistance to change, so that sometimes the efforts of the higher echelons are frustrated by mutual assistance in defense against investigations by the party or by the courts. The Central Committee of the SED has reacted by making all subordinate officials in positions of any responsibility attend a series of short courses of instruction and orientation. The Cadre Section has organized a special commission to give the party schools the necessary directives.
3. Meanwhile the SED has not succeeded in enlarging its mass support among the workers. The bulk of the members continue to be government employees.
4. The administrative reform led to a parallel reorganization of the party apparatus. The section of the Central Committee in charge of the lower echelons of the party (Leitende Parteiorgane) has direct liaison with the Bezirk level, and the section in charge of the party membership in the administration (Staatliche Organe) maintains contact with the Kreis level. On the still lower levels in rural areas, the party groups have difficulty in maintaining themselves, except in the neighborhood of the MAS (machinery loan stations) or of publicly owned farms; there are not enough members to support the Stützpunkte which are supposed to form the backbone of the party organization. In order to strengthen the party in the country, specialized political sections are being set up in the MAS and state farms, and in some cases in the new agricultural production cooperatives; however, the leaders

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of these sections are appointed by the Agriculture Section of the Central Committee and are party functionaries knowing nothing about agriculture. This has given rise to complaints, and the Central Committee is attempting to enforce a rule that at least one person in each party unit shall be professionally qualified.

5. As a result of the administrative reform, the party apparatus now has better control over government agencies. At the time of the establishment of the new councils, the directives issued by the Ministry of the Interior were not sufficiently precise, and had to be supplemented by instructions from the local party offices. No Bezirksrat or Kreisrat could be set up without the approval of the corresponding party authority, which vetoed some appointments and required various changes.
6. The SED members who serve as chairmen of the Bezirk and Kreis councils generally hold only honorary posts in the corresponding SED committees. They receive their instructions from the State Administration Offices of those committees, to which they also make regular reports on their activity in government. Their specialized subordinates (for agriculture, commerce, etc.) likewise report to the corresponding specialized bureau of the party.

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